

20 December 1954

MEMO FOR THE RECORD OF THE CLARK COMMITTEE

(No Schedule for the Day)

1. In a private session with Colonel Miller this morning, he stated that the Hoover Commission had levied certain requirements on the task force members which required them to come up with definite recommendations for the future of CIA. Miller stated that he looked for considerable trouble with the Commission, trying to sell them on a sensible approach to the "problem", eliminating bias, and coming up with a final meeting of the minds that would represent an overall estimate based on fact.

2. Colonel Miller said that there were some who advocated putting CIA under the military jurisdiction; others who advocated a joint control of the Agency, administered by various IAC member heads; some who advocated a clear division of responsibility between the military and CIA, removing the military personnel from the Agency and returning them to their parent organizations. All of these questions must be resolved one way or another, he said.

3. In his own estimation, CIA should be given greater authority and greater prerogative in the government. He feels CIA's responsibilities should be more clearly defined, and backed by strong regulations.

4. Colonel Miller said, in the question of finance, that budgets would come under very careful scrutiny in the coming weeks. As he put it, the question of "gaps" in intelligence are paramount. Granted CIA is paying a tremendous sum for intelligence collection, and in return is gathering a mass of material, but "Is this material the essential material, and are we getting our money's worth?" He feels greater direction to collection efforts should be afforded, and that the DD(P) should concentrate primarily on the collection of covert material only, most of which he feels is overt material anyway.


5. On the subject of publications, Colonel Miller feels many of the Agency's efforts are wasted, and far too many are published either "to beat the newspapers or to justify the existence of a self-appointed mission". This is particularly true of some of OOI's efforts, the amount of which has rather staggered him.

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6. As he put it, CIA's primary responsibility is to create thoughtful, timely estimates for the use of all consumers, based on the mass of information at hand. Whether or not we are being hampered in this effort is food for thought, he said. He pointed out that, in their effort to test the worth of such estimates, the commission would doubtless call on consumers and ask them their collective and individual opinions of the papers we produce. In so doing, he pointed out the pitfalls of such an approach, in that some Agencies (such as segments of the Department of Defense or State) might indicate they used our products very little, in that they were only concerned with various phases of intelligence collection on which they themselves were embarked. In order to protect their little domains, those particular Agencies might knock CIA's products, rather than praise them, which he felt was detrimental and unwise.

7. Thus the pattern of some of the past week's questioning seems to fall into shape. He is arming himself with sufficient information to support a (he hopes) sensible recommendation to the Commission next spring, and is reviewing said material this week in that interest. Whether or not he can come up with any conclusions, or drawn in the mass of reference material at hand, remains to be seen. I hope to get an inclination of his direction in the coming weeks, for I doubt if he will discuss openly the foregoing paragraphs with the DD(I) or DD(A) when he meets with them.

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cc:

Inspector General